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WASHINGTON
Wright

House Democratic leader Jim Wright and other congressmen attended a White House meeting Tuesday to "explore the possibilities" of achieving a bipartisan approach to Central American policy.

Wright and several other Democratic and Republican congressmen were invited to discuss the possible creation of a bipartisan commission to rally more support behind President Reagan's policies. Reagan did not attend the meeting.

The Texas Democrat said the administration was represented by White House chief of staff James Baker, CIA Director William Casey and Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam.

"They wanted to explore the possibilities of trying to achieve a bipartisan approach to Central America," the Texas Democrat told reporters.

He said he told the White House officials "some Democrats (in Congress) really don't believe the administration wants to achieve peace."

"I expressed that apprehension," Wright added, saying he told officials, "You've got to demonstrate you really want to achieve peace."

The aim of such a bipartisan panel, Wright said, would be "to develop a mutual approach to legislative and executive positions" in Central America.

"I think the general thrust of the conversation is that there is obviously a need for negotiation ... to open up a dialogue" with Central American rebels to see if it is possible to arrange their participation in free elections, said Wright.

He said he had no objection to Central American mediator Richard Stone talking to the Salvadoran insurgents.

White House officials have acknowledged that recent polls show a decline in public support for Reagan's approach to the problems of Central America.